

THON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, thank, and express my sincerest gratitude for an incredible group of students at the Pennsylvania State University—Penn State.

On February 18 at 4 p.m., Penn State students, staff, family, friends, volunteers, and spectators filled the Bryce Jordan Center for the 50th Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, more widely known as THON, to raise money for the Four Diamonds Foundation.

Since 1973, student volunteers have come together at Penn State to raise money for the Penn State Health Children's Hospital. In 1977, THON partnered with the Four Diamonds Foundation, and since then not a single Four Diamonds family has received a medical bill thanks to the tireless work and dedication of Penn State students.

The Four Diamonds was founded by Charles and Irma Millard in 1972 after their son, Christopher, lost his battle with cancer at age 11. Before Christopher passed away, he wrote a story about a great knight who sought out the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength to be saved from an evil sorceress. His parents realized those four qualities were all necessary to overcome cancer, and they created the Four Diamonds Fund in his memory.

Mr. Millard passed away in November of 2021 at the age of 93, but his legacy through THON and his foundation will no doubt live on forever.

Over the past 50 years, THON has grown into the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. In the first year, 78 students danced for 30 hours straight and raised just over \$2,000. Today, THON is a 46-hour no sitting, no sleeping dance marathon celebrating nearly 17,000 students' yearlong fundraising efforts to help end childhood cancer.

Thankfully, after a virtual event last year, 667 dancers and tens of thousands of student volunteers and supporters attended the event in-person. Students stood from 6 p.m. on Friday, February 18, until 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 20. While it was an impressive feat to hold, what is even more incredible is the drive, fortitude, and flexibility these students showed in their commitment to this cause.

This past year, the pandemic prohibited students from hosting many of their traditional bake sales, ribbon sales, or other fundraisers that Pennsylvanians have been accustomed to seeing throughout the Commonwealth. Despite this, THON shattered previous fundraising records by bringing in more than \$13.7 million for the kids.

□ 1045

Over the last 50 years, THON has now donated more than \$200 million to Four

Diamonds Fund, undoubtedly saving hundreds of lives.

While it is no easy feat to stand for 46 hours, the real highlight of this event comes on Sunday afternoon, shortly before the event concludes. During what is known as Family Hour, THON invites Four Diamonds families onto the stage to share their experiences with the Children's Hospital, Four Diamonds, and THON.

This year, Jacquie Homan shared the story of how her son was diagnosed with synovial cell sarcoma at age 2. Thanks to Penn State Children's Hospital, Declan is officially 5 years cancer-free, and Jacquie said that the support from the THON community had an immeasurable impact on helping their family cope with and move forward from this diagnosis.

I am inspired by Declan and every other child and family who find themselves battling cancer and am in awe of their strength and their spirit as they keep fighting.

I am also proud of the Penn State students who continue to be so committed to this cause. And I am incredibly proud of the work done by the Four Diamonds Foundation and Penn State Children's Hospital as they conduct lifesaving research and ensure no family ever receives a bill.

Congratulations, once again, to everyone involved in this year's THON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, we return to You this day. With our whole hearts, we approach You.

On this day, some fast that they would satisfy their hunger only with Your word. Others weep, ashamed of the choices they have made which have distanced themselves from You. And still more mourn, grieving the loss of Your loving embrace.

Be merciful to us, O God. Be slow to anger. Show us Your grace that we would enjoy again Your steadfast love.

Then spare Your people. Let no one say, "Where is our God?" Have pity on those who cry out to You this day.

Remove the enemies from those who call on Your name and walk in Your

way. May Your children no longer fear. In Your redemption, may they once again find reason to rejoice.

Praise be to you, O Lord our God. You are in the midst of us. We call upon Your most holy name. Hear our prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS DAY

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, six years ago this month, I heard the phrase triple-negative breast cancer for the first time in my life. I was in the oncologist's office with my newly diagnosed 29-year-old daughter, Lauren, a day forever etched in my memory.

In the weeks that followed, I learned a great deal about this very aggressive, rare form of breast cancer. Roughly 12 percent of breast cancer survivors are designated as triple-negative.

It is the only form of breast cancer that doesn't respond to hormone therapy, often requiring chemotherapy instead. And it claims the lives of thousands of women and men each year. It stole Lauren from our family in August of 2017.

Tomorrow, March 3, is Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Day. I am humbled to sponsor a resolution to call attention to this awful disease and to let the thousands of victims of triple-negative breast cancer know they are not alone.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.

AN ANXIOUS WORLD

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the State of the Union last night was a disconnect from the reality of Biden failures. The Wall Street Journal is correct. He missed the moment.

The paper went further to describe what Biden did not say: More defense spending to meet the threats from autocrats? No. A new appreciation of the contribution of fossil fuels to American and European security? Not a word. A note that government spending contributed to the highest inflation rate in 40 years? Nope.

I personally was disappointed that there was no mention of leaving Americans behind in Afghanistan, 13 patriots murdered in Kabul. And now Afghanistan is a safe haven for terrorists who can come across the open border to attack American families.

An anxious world is looking for American leadership in a dangerous new era. I hope the President will change course for peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless Ukraine. God save Ukraine. Long live President Volodymyr Zelensky.

AMERICA'S EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, last night we heard the President of the United States speak with great enthusiasm about our friendship with the people of Ukraine and how we have shared values in terms of democracy, in terms of sovereignty, and in terms of not having someone come into their country and usurp their freedom.

President Biden also spoke about America's freedom in the world in terms of our independence in terms of our own investments in our economic future. America's excellence in science and engineering has long been the envy of the world. Along the way other countries have copied our model, investing in education and research and took over some of the manufacturing of our supply.

We have, what was referenced by the President last night, legislation, we call it the America COMPETES Act in the House of Representatives. It is a blueprint for our independence and our self-sufficiency economically in the world.

With the House-passed America COMPETES Act we do three things. First of all, we invest in chips, \$52 billion in chips and semiconductors. Do you know how many chips are in a car? There are 1,000; and in an electric car, 2,000. In order for our auto manufacturers to continue to create jobs and create products, we need chips. \$52 billion.

Secondly, we reinvigorate our manufacturing base by addressing the supply chain issues. Supply chain increases supply, reducing costs, lowering inflation. This is very important. There is \$48 billion invested there.

Third, we invest in research and education into stem cell so we can diversify the workforce to include many more people, everyone in our country, as we advance science and technology and good-paying jobs for the future.

Again, we are prepared to go into conference with the Senate on this legislation. We are always ready to fight for the people. We expect to have this legislation before too long, and when we do so we will be lowering costs, increasing paychecks, and doing so for the people.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. RAY FARLEY

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Dr. Ray Farley, the former president of Young Harris College.

Dr. Farley was a long-time supporter of Young Harris College, with 35 years of dedicated service to Young Harris under his belt.

Beginning as a professor of history in 1955, Dr. Farley worked with the college until his retirement in 1991, after serving as the college president for 20 years. For some of those years I was a student at Young Harris College while Dr. Farley was the president. I got to know him well. He was a fine gentleman and did an excellent job.

During his tenure as president, Dr. Farley made it his mission to modernize and expand the services and facilities at Young Harris. He was responsible for taking important steps to strengthen the college endowment, faculty, curriculum, and facilities.

Dr. Farley implemented his plan for helping to beautify the campus as well by renovating dining facilities, resident halls, and administrative buildings. The years with Dr. Farley at the helm were integral to the growth and development of the college itself.

In April of 2021, Dr. Farley was awarded the Outstanding Friend Award by the Young Harris College Alumni Association for his incredible dedication and service to the college. His legacy and impact will be felt for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I send my condolences to his family and friends as well as the whole Young Harris community.

RUSSIA'S ASSAULT ON UKRAINE

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Russia's assault on Ukrainian freedom and democracy is an assault on freedom and de-

mocracy everywhere. That is why America and our allies are linking arms and engaging in unprecedented cooperation. President Biden has marshalled the world to impose severe consequences on Putin and the Russian economy.

Because of these crippling sanctions, Russia now stands at the precipice of a punishing financial crisis. American troops, many from Fort Bragg and elsewhere in North Carolina, are already in NATO countries in Eastern Europe, and more are on their way.

The international community is also sending support to countries neighboring Ukraine, including North Carolina's close partner, Moldova. As we continue to work on a robust new aid package, the prayers and admiration of the people of my district are with the brave Ukrainian freedom fighters risking their lives to defend their homeland.

AMERICA FIRST MEANS POWER UNDER CONTROL

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, when the United States military shows up, kings and kingdoms fall to their knees. As the great philosopher Toby Keith once said, "We put a boot in their ass, it's the American way." Our military preeminence is unmatched, our brand is dominance. But our greatness lies in temperance. America first means power under control.

Overzealous executives have wrenched away a precious power bestowed on this body. I am here to remind them: Congress declares war, not Joe Biden, not some woke general. Congress, the people, must debate, decide, and then, if absolutely necessary, declare war.

The Constitution is our compass, not the feelings of some bought-off military-industrial complex war hawk who uses emotion to justify America's entry into every overseas conflict. Congress must reclaim our power to declare war, and if we do declare, we must define what victory looks like. The sons and daughters of America are too precious to waste on the altar of globalism.

America first, always and forever.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND OUR ELDERLY

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, more than 900,000 people in the United States have lost their lives due to COVID. Of those more than 900,000, 660,000 people over age 65 have been lost because of COVID. This is the same population that was not only worried and concerned about COVID, but they are the ones on a fixed income. They are the ones that rely on Social Security.